

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT NO.

25X1

SUBJECT Construction of KOLNO-Class Ships in the Szczecin Shipyards

DATE DISTR.

28 July 1954

25X1

NO. OF PAGES

1

REQUIREMENT NO.

25X1 DATE OF INFO.

25X1 PLACE ACQUIRED

25X1

REFERENCES

1. The Szczecin (Stettin) shipyards are still being expanded and are continuing to build ships solely for the USSR. This latter fact is allegedly hidden from the public. The four so-called KOLNO-class ships, of about 4,000 gross tons each, which have been under construction for over two years, are still in the Szczecin shipyard, although state propaganda announced a long time ago that they had been completed. Two of these ships were launched over eight months ago; one was launched without any ceremony before the canal froze over; and the fourth ship is still on the ways. Regarding the two ships that were launched over eight months ago, one of these went on a 20-hour shakedown cruise in January 1954 along the Polish coast to Gdynia and the other is waiting to make its trial run. The Soviet Commission was not satisfied with the performance of the first ship on its shakedown cruise, so it was brought back to Szczecin to correct the defects.

2. All of these four ships are destined to become coal and ore transports. [redacted] the last ship of this group will probably not be delivered to the USSR before the end of the year, even though work is continuing at an accelerated pace.

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